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**Abstract**

An optical switch comprising at least a first demultiplexer for demultiplexing a series of wavelength division multiplexed signals into corresponding spatially separated demultiplexed signals; a series of first optical to electronic interface units interconnected to said spatially separated demultiplexed signals; an electronic switch for transmitting said data stream to one of a series of output ports under the control of an external control signal; a series of second electronic to optical interface units at said output ports and at least a first multiplexer interconnected to a plurality of optical interface units for multiplexing the optical stream of each interface unit together to form a combined optical data stream output.

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